

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Previously presented) A system for evaluating and selecting competition winners from a pool of candidates in a competition comprising:

a database for storing candidate records;

a qualification subsystem coupled to said database for determining said candidate records to be qualified or disqualified;

a grouping subsystem coupled to said database for grouping said candidate records into evaluation groups responsive to information contained in said candidate records;

an evaluation subsystem coupled to said qualification subsystem and said database for evaluating and scoring each of said candidate records having been qualified over one or more evaluation variables;

a selection subsystem coupled to said evaluation subsystem and database for selecting one or more competition finalists for each of said evaluation groups responsive to said evaluation and scoring of said candidate records having been qualified; and

a tracking subsystem coupled to said evaluation subsystem for tracking said one or more competition finalists and one or more non-selected candidates and determining an actual success indicator for each of one or more performance variables.

Claim 22. (Original) A system as in claim 21, further comprising: an eligibility subsystem coupled to said database for determining said competition records to be eligible or ineligible responsive to a minimum eligibility standard and information contained in said competition records, each of said evaluation groups having a corresponding said minimum eligibility standard.

Claim 23. (Original) A system as in claim 22, wherein said minimum eligibility standard varies with the number of candidate profiles.

Claims 24-26. (Canceled)

Claim 27. (Previously presented) A method for administering a competition system comprising:

- receiving one or more candidate packages, each said candidate package containing information about a candidate in a competition;
- for each said candidate package:
 - determining whether said candidate package meets a minimum application standard,
 - selecting said candidate package when said candidate package is determined to meet said minimum application standard,
 - selecting an evaluator,
 - enabling said evaluator to evaluate said selected candidate package,
 - receiving an evaluation of said selected candidate package from said evaluator;
 - ranking all said evaluated candidate packages responsive to corresponding received said evaluations; selecting a predetermined number of competition finalists responsive to said calculated
- overall scores; and
- tracking the performance of said competition finalists and one or more non-selected candidates; and determining an actual success indicator for each of said competition finalists and said non-selected candidates.

Claim 28. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein said step of selecting an evaluator comprises: choosing an evaluator; determining whether said evaluator is eligible to evaluate said selected candidate package; choosing another evaluator and returning to said step of determining

whether said evaluator is eligible to evaluate said selected candidate package responsive to said determination of whether said evaluator is eligible to evaluate said selected candidate package indicating said evaluator is not eligible to evaluate said selected candidate package; and selecting said evaluator responsive to said determination indicating said evaluator is eligible to evaluate said selected candidate package.

Claim 29. (Original) The method as in claim 28 wherein the step of determining whether said evaluator is eligible to evaluate said candidate package comprises: sending an evaluator eligibility question to said evaluator; receiving a response to said evaluator eligibility question from said evaluator; and determining whether said evaluator is eligible to evaluate said queued candidate package responsive to said received response regarding said evaluator eligibility question.

Claim 30. (Original) The method as in claim 27, wherein said step of receiving a plurality of candidate packages, each said candidate package containing information about a candidate in a competition comprises: receiving a plurality of application documents each relating to a candidate; and grouping said application documents such that all said application documents relating to the same candidate are grouped into a candidate package.

Claim 31. (Original) The method of claim 27, said method further comprising: determining whether said selected candidate package is eligible to be evaluated; and denying said evaluator from evaluating said selected candidate package responsive to said determination indicating said selected candidate package is not eligible to be evaluated.

Claim 32. (Original) The method as in claim 27 wherein the step of determining whether said candidate package is eligible to be evaluated comprises: sending a candidate package eligibility question to said evaluator; receiving a response from said evaluator regarding said candidate

package eligibility question; and determining whether said candidate package is eligible for evaluation responsive to said received response regarding said candidate package eligibility question.

Claim 33. (Original) A method as in claim 27 wherein said one or more minimum application standards comprises: one or more minimum response standards; one or more eligibility requirements; and one or more qualification requirements.

Claim 34. (Original) A method as in claim 27 further comprising: determining whether any of said competition finalists are confirmed; and selecting a new competition finalist for each competition finalist determined not to be confirmed and returning to said step of determining whether any of said competition finalists are confirmed.

Claim 35-92. (Canceled)

Claim 93 (Currently Amended) ~~A system as in claim 1, further comprising~~ A system for evaluating and selecting competition winners from a pool of candidates in a competition comprising:

a database for storing candidate documents;

a grouping subsystem coupled to said database for grouping said candidate documents into candidate data sets;

a qualification subsystem coupled to said database for determining said candidate data sets to be qualified or disqualified;

a pool reduction subsystem coupled to said database for determining whether said candidate data sets having been qualified meet a discretionary eligibility standard, said discretionary eligibility standard varying as a function of the number of said candidate data sets having been qualified;

an evaluation subsystem coupled to said qualification subsystem and said database for evaluating each of said candidate data sets having met said discretionary eligibility standard and scoring one or more evaluation variables in response to said evaluation;

a selection subsystem coupled to said evaluation subsystem and database for selecting one or more competition finalists responsive to said evaluation and scoring of said candidate data sets having met said discretionary eligibility standard; and

a tracking subsystem coupled to said evaluation subsystem for tracking said one or more competition finalists and one or more non-selected candidates and determining an actual success indicator for each of one or more performance variables.